

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 8, 2003

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NEW GAO REPORT CONFIRMS CONGRESS PROVIDING MORE THAN ENOUGH FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT “NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND” TESTING PROVISIONS

Study also shows reform opponents have inflated testing costs in other reports

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, today recognized the results of a report released by the General Accounting Office (GAO) on the cost of school testing under the No Child Left Behind Act. The report confirms Congress is providing more than enough funding to cover the costs of testing.

In addition, the report shows that opponents of No Child Left Behind have inflated the costs associated with testing programs by as much as \$5.1 billion between fiscal years 2002 and 2008. According to the report, the funding provided by Congress more than adequately covers the testing costs associated with No Child Left Behind.

Senator Gregg stated, “The General Accounting Office has confirmed what supporters of No Child Left Behind have been saying all along. Congress has provided the funding states need to comply with this law. This new report confirms that states are being provided with the resources they need to adequately and accurately assess student progress and make sure no child is left behind.”

According to the GAO study, the cost of administering valid student assessments will cost states approximately \$1.9 billion for fiscal years 2002-2008. Congress is providing at least \$2.34 billion to cover state testing costs during those years.

At the same time, the highest possible cost estimate in the GAO report (www.gao.gov) for assessments is still two billion, or 32 percent less than the highest estimates given by No Child Left Behind critics, further evidence that critics have grossly overestimated the costs associated with No Child Left Behind.

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